

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

30-07-2026

DAANVEER Initiative

News On AIR

DAANVEER aims to digitize Gram Panchayats through citizen participation

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, today launched DAANVEER, a citizen participation initiative aimed at strengthening the digital...



Why in News

- Recently, the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** launched the **DAANVEER Initiative** to strengthen digital infrastructure in **Gram Panchayats**.

Governance Framework

- DAANVEER** is a citizen participation initiative enabling voluntary donation of computers to **Gram Panchayats**.
- It has been launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** in collaboration with the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** and **DigiHaat**.
- The initiative operates through the **Meri Panchayat** mobile application integrated with the **DigiHaat** marketplace.



Operational Features

- It provides an end-to-end digital and verifiable mechanism for donations.
- Donors can select **pre-approved computer bundles** based on state-specific technical specifications.
- Delivery details are auto-populated to eliminate paperwork.
- Contributors can track donations from dispatch to installation.

- Donors receive a digital certificate of appreciation after successful installation.

Governance Significance

- It promotes **citizen participation** in rural digital transformation.
- It strengthens digital infrastructure for better public service delivery in villages.
- It supports the vision of a **Digitally Empowered** and **Self-Reliant Rural India**.
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Sooty Bark Disease

toi The Times of India

In 2022, sooty bark disease emerged in British Columbia's maples; today it threatens Canada's iconic big!

In British Columbia, maple trees have been observed with sooty bark disease, and researchers are working on ways to reduce the rate at which...



Why in News

- Researchers in **British Columbia (Canada)** are studying **Sooty Bark Disease** affecting maple trees to reduce its spread.

Disease Profile

- **Sooty Bark Disease** is a fungal disease that affects **maple trees**.
- It is caused by the fungus **Cryptostroma corticale**.
- The disease causes rapid wilting and eventual mortality of infected trees.

Important Facts

- **Scientific name:** **Cryptostroma corticale**
- **Primary host:** **Maple trees**
- **Favourable climate:** Extended periods of **high temperature** and **dry weather**.

Ecological Characteristics

- The fungus is endemic to the **Great Lakes region of North America**.
- It is considered an introduced disease in **Europe**.

- The fungus can remain dormant for several years before becoming active.

Climatic and Health Dimensions

- The disease develops under prolonged **hot and dry conditions**.
- Extensive black sooty patches appear beneath the bark due to massive spore production.
- Inhalation of fungal spores may pose risks to human health.
- There is currently **no effective control** available for the disease.



Danube River

Why in News

- Historically low water levels in the **Danube River** exposed mammoth remains in northern **Bulgaria**.

Geographical Importance

- The **Danube** is the **second-longest river in Europe** after the **Volga River**.
- It originates from the confluence of the **Brigach** and **Breg** rivers in Germany's **Black Forest**.



- It flows for about **2,850 km** before draining into the **Black Sea**.

International Significance

- The river flows through **10 European countries**.
- It passes through four national capitals—**Vienna**, **Bratislava**, **Budapest**, and **Belgrade**.
- It forms one of Europe's most important inland waterways.

Strategic Relevance

- The **Rhine–Main–Danube Canal** links the **North Sea** with the **Black Sea**.
- The river has historically served as a trade route and the northern frontier of the **Roman Empire**.

Delta and Tributaries

- It forms the **Danube Delta**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** located mainly in **Romania**.
- Major tributaries include the **Inn**, **Drava**, **Sava**, **Tisza**, **Prut**, and **Siret** rivers.
- The delta is continuously expanding towards the **Black Sea**.

Smooth-coated Otter

Why in News

- A recent study reported a significant population of **Smooth-coated Otters** in the **Mettur Dam** and **Cauvery River** stretches of **Tamil Nadu**, prompting demands for protected freshwater habitat.

TH The Hindu

[Mayiladuthurai college study identifies major otter habitat in Mettur region](#)

A study conducted by the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology of A.V.C. College, Mayiladuthurai, has identified evidence of a...



Species Profile

- The **Smooth-coated Otter** (**Lutrogale perspicillata**) is the only extant species of the genus **Lutrogale**.
- It is the **largest otter species in Southeast Asia**.

- It has a broad head, flattened tail, webbed feet, and smooth water-repellent fur.

Distribution and Habitat

- It is distributed across South Asia, Southeast Asia, China, and a small population in Iraq.
- It inhabits freshwater wetlands, rivers, lakes, mangroves, peat swamps, and rice fields.
- It can travel long distances over land while searching for suitable habitats.

Behaviour and Ecology

- It is an excellent swimmer and generally hunts in groups.
- During fishing, groups often move upstream in a characteristic V-formation.
- The species is equally adapted to aquatic and terrestrial environments.

Threats and Conservation

- Major threats include habitat loss, water pollution, wetland degradation, and poaching.
- IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable.

Pradhan Mantri Vidyalexmi Scheme

DD India

PM Vidyalexmi Scheme expands access to higher education with collateral-free loans, interest support

The Pradhan Mantri Vidyalexmi (PM-Vidyalexmi) Scheme has emerged as a major initiative of the Ministry of Education aimed at making quality...



Why in News

- The Pradhan Mantri Vidyalexmi Scheme is supporting the objectives of SDG 4 and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by improving access to quality higher education.

Scheme Overview

- It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Education to provide financial support for higher education.

- It aims to ensure that deserving students are not denied education due to financial constraints.
- The scheme covers education loans for eligible degree and diploma courses.

Implementation Features

- Loans are provided through Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), and Cooperative Banks.
- Interest subvention and credit guarantee benefits are available only once for UG, PG, or Integrated Courses.

Eligibility Framework

- Students must secure merit-based admission through competitive examinations in designated Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs).
- Eligible institutions include the Top 100 NIRF-ranked HEIs, Top 200 State/UT HEIs, and all remaining Central Government HEIs.
- Rankings are based on the latest National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

Financial Provisions

- Education loans are repayable within 15 years, excluding the moratorium period.
- Loans up to ₹7.5 lakh receive a 75% Credit Guarantee from the Government of India.
- Students with annual family income up to ₹8 lakh receive 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹10 lakh.
- Students with annual family income up to ₹4.5 lakh continue to receive full interest subvention.
- Interest rates are capped at Externally Benchmarked Lending Rate (EBLR) + 0.5%.

e-Zero FIR System

TNIE The New Indian Express

Punjab Police launches e-Zero FIR mechanism for swift action in cyber fraud cases

The e-Zero FIR mechanism enables eligible cyber financial fraud complaints reported through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP)...



Why in News

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has introduced the **e-Zero FIR System** across **18 States and Union Territories** for major cyber financial fraud cases.

Legal and Institutional Framework

- The system enables automatic registration of **Zero FIRs** for cyber financial crimes.
- It operates under **Section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**.
- The initiative is led by the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

Operational Mechanism

- Cyber financial fraud complaints involving losses above **₹10 lakh** are automatically converted into **Zero FIRs**.
- Complaints must be registered through the **1930 Cyber Helpline** or the **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP)**.
- The Zero FIR is generated at the **e-Crime Police Station** and forwarded to the concerned territorial police station.
- The complainant must visit the police station within **three days** for conversion into a regular FIR.

Governance Significance

- It ensures quicker legal action against large-value cyber financial frauds.
- It improves coordination among cybercrime agencies across states.
- It strengthens technology-driven policing under the **Digital India** framework.

Digital Integration

- The system integrates the **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP)** with the **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)** of the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**.
- The integration enables real-time processing, nationwide interoperability, and automatic case routing.

Other Important News of the day

Persons in News

Murali Sreeshankar Wins Commonwealth Games Silver

Why in News

- **Murali Sreeshankar** won **Silver** in the **men's long jump** at the **2026 Commonwealth Games** in **Glasgow** with a jump of **8.09 m**.



Key Highlights

- **Gold:** **Tajay Gayle (Jamaica)** – **8.15 m**.
- **Bronze:** **Stephen Mackenzie (Scotland)** – **8.08 m**.
- Sreeshankar became the **first Indian male long jumper** to win **two Commonwealth Games medals**, after his **Birmingham 2022 Silver**.

Important Facts

- **2026 Commonwealth Games:** **23 July–2 August 2026**, **Glasgow, Scotland**.
- The **long jump** measures the longest legal jump from the take-off board to the nearest landing mark.

Rankings

India Rises to 57th in Global Pro-Competition Reforms Ranking

DD India

[India climbs 25 places to 57th in global competitiveness reforms ranking: report](#)

India has moved up 25 places to rank 57th globally in a competitiveness index tracking structural and pro-competitive reforms, according to...



Why in News

- India improved from 82nd to 57th in the Market Distortions Performance Index, reflecting progress in pro-competitive reforms.

Index Highlights

- The index evaluates Protection of Property Rights, Domestic Competition, and International Competition.
- The improvement is attributed to reforms undertaken during 2010–2023.

Key Reforms

- GST (2017) created a unified indirect tax regime.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 introduced a time-bound insolvency resolution framework.
- Regulatory and trade facilitation reforms strengthened market competition.

Important Facts

- Competition Act, 2002 regulates anti-competitive practices in India.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) enforces the Act.
- IBBI is the regulator under the IBC, 2016.
- CTIL functions under the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT).

Environment

Raimona National Park

Why in News

- A recent firing

incident in the **Athiabari Range** of **Raimona National Park** highlighted concerns over illegal deforestation in the protected area.

India Today NE

Assam: Man suspected of illegal deforestation allegedly shot dead by forest guards in Raimona National Park

A firing incident was reported from the Athiabari Range of Raimona National Park in Assam's Kokrajhar district on Wednesday, July 29 with a...



Geographical Profile

- **Raimona National Park** is located in **Kokrajhar district** of **Assam** within the **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)**.
- It lies along the **India-Bhutan border** at the foothills of the **Eastern Himalayas**.

Hydrological Features

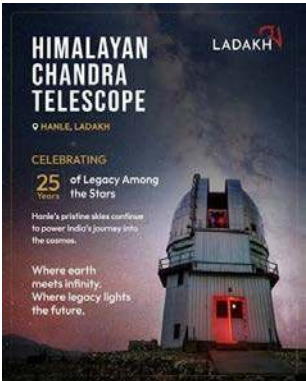
- The **Sankosh River** forms the western boundary of the park.
- The **Saralbhanga River** flows along its eastern boundary.
- The **Pekua River** forms its southern boundary.

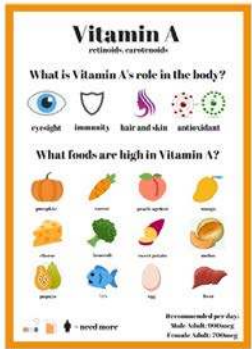
- It forms a transboundary conservation landscape with **Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park** of Bhutan.

Biodiversity Significance

- The park contains tropical rainforests, riverine grasslands, orchids, bamboo and wetland ecosystems.
- It is the habitat of the endangered **Golden Langur**, the mascot of the **Bodoland region**.
- Other important fauna include **Bengal Tiger**, **Clouded Leopard**, **Asian Elephant**, **Wild Buffalo**, **Gaur**, and **Spotted Deer**.

	The park supports 170 bird species, 150+ butterfly species, and 4–5 hornbill species.
Defence	Machilipatnam ASW Warship
	TH The Hindu <u>Navy launches ASW shallow watercraft Machilipatnam at Cochin shipyard</u> India's Navy launches Machilipatnam, enhancing anti-submarine warfare capabilities and marking progress in indigenous warship building. Why in News - The Machilipatnam (BY-529) Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) was recently launched for the Indian Navy. Platform Profile - It is the seventh vessel of the Mahe-class ASW-SWC. - The warship is named after Machilipatnam, a historic port city in Andhra Pradesh. - It has been built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for the Indian Navy. Operational Capabilities - It has a displacement of about 900 tonnes. - It can achieve a maximum speed of 25 knots. - It has an operational endurance of about 1,800 nautical miles. - It is designed for Underwater Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Mine Warfare, and Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO). Strategic Significance - It enhances India's coastal defence capability. - It strengthens Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in littoral waters. - It improves indigenous naval shipbuilding capabilities under Make in India.

	Technological Features • It is equipped with an indigenous Hull-Mounted Sonar. • It also carries a Low-Frequency Variable Depth Sonar. • The vessel has over 80% indigenous content under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
Space	Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT)  PIB https://www.pib.gov.in > PressReleasePage Celebrating 25 years of the Himalayan Chandra Telescope ... 1 day ago — The telescope saw its 'First Light' on 26 September 2000, and was dedicated to the nation in August 2001. It was named the 'Himalayan Chandra ... Read more Why in News • The 25th anniversary of the Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) at Hanle, Ladakh, was recently celebrated. Observatory Profile • The HCT is a 2-metre optical-infrared telescope named after Nobel Laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar. • It is located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) in Hanle, Ladakh, at an altitude of about 4,500 metres. • It is among the ten highest optical telescopes in the world. 

	Scientific Infrastructure - The telescope is remotely operated from CREST, Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Hosakote, near Bengaluru. - Major instruments include HFOSC, uTIRSPEC, and HESP. - Hanle offers excellent observing conditions due to low atmospheric water vapour and cloudless skies. Research Contributions - The telescope supports research on planets, asteroids, stars, and galaxies. - It has contributed to spectroscopy of comets and studies of exoplanet atmospheres. - It participated in the discovery of the TRAPPIST-1b exoplanet.
Science and Technology	Vitamin A Why in News - A recent study found that higher Vitamin A levels are associated with better lung function in children and adults suffering from asthma. Biochemical Profile Vitamin A is a fat-soluble vitamin primarily stored in the liver. - It comprises retinol, retinal, retinoic acid, and retinyl esters. - Dietary Vitamin A occurs as preformed Vitamin A from animal sources and provitamin A carotenoids from plant sources.  Vitamin A retinoids, carotenoids What is Vitamin A's role in the body? eyesight immunity hair and skin antioxidant What foods are high in Vitamin A? Recommended per day: Male: Adults: 1000mcg Female: Adults: 700mcg

- **Beta-carotene** is the most common provitamin A converted into active Vitamin A by the body.

Physiological Functions

- It supports **vision**, particularly under low-light conditions.
- It promotes **immune function** by supporting **T-cell** development.
- It is essential for **cell growth**, **reproduction**, and **fetal development**.
- It maintains the health of the **skin**, **lungs**, **intestines**, **urinary tract**, and **inner ear**.
- It is also known as **retinol** because it forms visual pigments in the **retina**.

Dietary Sources

- Rich animal sources include **liver**, **fish**, **cod liver oil**, **eggs**, and **dairy products**.
- Plant sources include **carrot**, **sweet potato**, **mango**, **spinach**, **broccoli**, and other dark green leafy vegetables.

Deficiency and Toxicity

- Deficiency causes **night blindness** and **xerophthalmia**, which may become irreversible.
- Deficiency can also lead to **hyperkeratosis** and dry scaly skin.
- Excessive intake may cause **hypervitaminosis A**, resulting in serious toxicity and even death.
- Vitamin A deficiency is treated using **Vitamin A supplementation**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh Achieves UN SDG-6 Targets Ahead of Schedule



UP Government

<https://epariyojana.up.gov.in> › PDF › SDG6_Brief PDF ⋮

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of ...

Uttar Pradesh has adopted several affirmative actions targets under SDG 6. The state claims ODF status and is ... 69.12% against a target of 100%.

Why in News

- **Uttar Pradesh** has achieved the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)** targets ahead of schedule through major water conservation and drinking water initiatives.

Major Initiatives

- Under **Jal Jeevan Mission (Har Ghar Jal)**, functional household tap water connections have been provided to millions of rural households.
- The state leads the **Amrit Sarovar Mission** by rejuvenating and constructing thousands of village ponds for rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.
- The **Khet Talab Yojana** promotes construction of farm ponds with government support to improve on-farm water storage and reduce dependence on tube wells.

Water Resource Management

- Community-led programmes have rejuvenated several small rivers and tributaries, improving aquatic ecosystems and local biodiversity.
- Strict enforcement of the **Uttar Pradesh Groundwater Act** mandates **rooftop rainwater harvesting** in urban buildings and curbs illegal groundwater extraction.

Significance

- The achievement strengthens water security, climate-resilient agriculture, and sustainable groundwater management.
- It serves as a model for achieving SDG-6: Clean Water and Sanitation, one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015.